

## Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, February 22: **Soup and Salad Fundraiser**  
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes  
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service  
After worship Soup and Salad Fundraiser  
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
- Monday, February 23:  
10 a.m. Staff Meeting  
11 a.m. Prayer Group  
3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons  
5 p.m. Christian Ed Ministry Meeting
- Tuesday, February 24:  
8:30 a.m. Introductory Class to Interplay  
10 a.m. -12 p.m. Interplay  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store  
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Wednesday, February 25:  
4- 6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
6 p.m. Simple Living Life as a Work of Art  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 26:  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store  
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
7 p.m. Book Club in Pathfinders Room
- Saturday, February 28:  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- Sunday, March 1:  
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes  
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service  
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### **Spiritual Formation Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.**

“Seeking Understanding in Scripture” in Carmack Room

“The Ark of the Covenant”, Exodus 25: 10-16; 40: 16-21, 33-38

“Pathfinders Class” in the Pathfinders Room

This Week: “Lord, Give Me Patience! And give it to me right now!” by James Moore and Bob J. Moore.

“The Nature of True Community” Bible Class Begins Sunday, Jan. 18 Texts includes Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s **Life Together**.

## First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)



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### **Mark 1:9-15**

**9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**12** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

**13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

**14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

### **1 Peter 3: 18-22**

**18** For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, **20** who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. **21** And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.



## Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

*The joys and concerns of our congregation and community follow. Please remember that some requests are marked confidential and are lifted up within the Monday Morning Prayer Circle yet not reflected here. Sometimes, simply a person's name will be listed with no explanation. Trust in the wisdom and confidentiality of the Prayer Group, and lift up that person's whole being to God's holy, healing Light.*

- **God answers prayers!** Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Matthew 7: 7)
- **Ashley Buchanan** is having a Vocal Recital on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. at Agnes Scott College. The event is free and all are welcome.
- **Laura Herbig** says, “How sweet this church is. I definitely felt the Holy Spirit here in the Word, message, and music.”
- **Minnie Haynes** says God is calling us to listen to Him!
- **Ann Brewer Berry, Betty Brewer-Calvert's** aunt, passed away on Friday after a long journey through Lewy Body Dementia. She was a beautiful woman in faith, a Kindergarten teacher and musician. She was sister to **Rev. Don Brewer**, wife to **Don Berry**, mother of three and grandmother of five boys.
- **Wiley Harris** mother **Beverly Harris** is in ICU at DeKalb Medical with breathing problems. Wiley Harris is also ill.
- **Julie Fleming** asks for prayers for **Ralph Miller** in hospice in Plainview, TX and his wife **Alice**.
- **Jackie Tate** says, “**Jacob** is home!”
- **God answers prayers!** Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Matthew 7: 7)
- **Clara Holley** had a recurrent infection and will have outpatient surgery at Emory on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Bridgette Boker** asks for prayers for her son **Andre**.
- Please keep **Cathy Keeler** in your prayers. She is having tests to determine the cause of her current condition.
- **Samuel Bryant Stephenson**, 18 months old, has been diagnosed with leukemia. His family is at Shiloh Christian Church.
- **Larry Todd** asks for prayer for his brother-in-law **Terry Tolbert** who is awaiting surgery for a kidney stone removal.
- **Linda Haynes Bradley** asks for prayer for **Shelby LeDuc** who is going through cancer treatments in Spotsylvania, VA.
- **Jay and Peggy Norton** ask for prayer for Peggy's sister **Eleanor** who continues to have severe headaches.
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayer for his mother **Sue Finley**, who has heart failure and cancer.
- We continue to lift up **Furat and Deb Almauhy, Glen Alsobrook, Sr., Johnnie Barber, Betty Carroll, Julia Glenn Carter, Elizabeth Cunningham, The Delk Family, Jeanette Duncan, Willie Mae Durr, Sylvia Ennis, Hank Ferry, Shannen Ferry, J.D. Fleming, Mary Ellen Fountain, Dottie Gill, Adei Grenpastures, Barbara Hennig, Clara Holley, Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis, Nicolas Jordan, The Kidd Family, Patti King, Blair Lewellyn, Jay Love, Monte and Sarah Mathis, Judy McMahan, Carol Givens (Evans) McGinnis, Lynn Nabers, The Norton Family, Mary Beth Powell, Ramona Rathel, Kim Stanley, Lee Stanley, Tate Family, Terry Tolbert, Mildred Trott, Carol Wheeler, Nancy Williamson, and Ellen Young**.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of First Christian Church of Decatur, I write to thank you for your participation and prayers while worshipping Jesus Christ here amongst the whole people of God. Shalom, Pastor James Brewer-Calvert

**The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** was born in the early 1800s as a dynamic movement for God that spread across the American frontier. Seeking to move beyond denominational division and toward being a New Testament Church, our founders envisioned a united community of faith grounded in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Today we are over 3,700 congregations strong across the United States, Canada, and around the world. The red Chalice with St. Andrew's Cross symbolizes our focus on the weekly celebration of Holy Communion and the openness of the Lord's Table, where all are made welcome and invited to partake.

**First Christian Church of Decatur** was founded on Christmas Day 1921, and has served faithfully ever since with a significant urban ministry, an inclusive theology, and a Kingdom-building vision. We are open and accepting of all of God's people, and encourage women, men, and young people to follow their call from God to serve, just as Christ first served us.

**Here is a brief theology and history lesson about this Body of Christ.** First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Decatur, Georgia has a covenantal relationship with sister churches across the city and around the world. While each congregation is independent – no one has the ecclesial authority to direct us what to do, say, believe, or call to serve as pastor—we are connected by a covenant of love. Beginning in the early 1800's, Christian Churches and Disciples of Christ congregations flourished across the USA and around the world. In 1968, the separate bodies yoked to become the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with three manifestations: local congregations, regional churches, and a general church to facilitate national and international missions. Ever since we have covenanted to support and encourage fellow Disciples and to practice Christian ministry locally, regionally and globally.

**Having said that, there are some theological practices we share in common.**

We are non-creedal; everyone is invited to love and serve God through Jesus Christ, but how and why you move in that direction is between each soul and God. We practice baptism by immersion at an age of understanding, yet we recognize all forms of baptism and therefore do not require anyone to be re-baptized. The Lord's Table is open because Christ is the host and the purpose. We celebrate the birth, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in the context of worship we offer Holy Communion every Sunday. Everyone has a vocation, and we affirm Christ's call to children, youth, women and men to serve. We turn to the Holy Scriptures for guidance and direction in our daily living, yet also recognize that the Holy Spirit, in God's infinite wisdom, continues to lovingly communicate through additional voices and acts of grace. At the intersection of faith and reason we meet the Risen Christ and one another. The call of the Gospel for social justice and the building of community is intricately woven into the very fabric of the worship, study, and prayer life of the church.

**How to Join:** You may join First Christian Church by transfer of membership, confession of faith, or by renewal of the vows of your baptism. Please fill out a Friends and Visitors Card (found in your worship program) and bring it forward with you during the Hymn of Invitation, where our Pastor will be delighted to welcome you. Disciples of Christ congregations are delighted to recognize all baptisms. We baptize by immersion at an age of understanding. If you have not been baptized we will schedule one with you at a later date.